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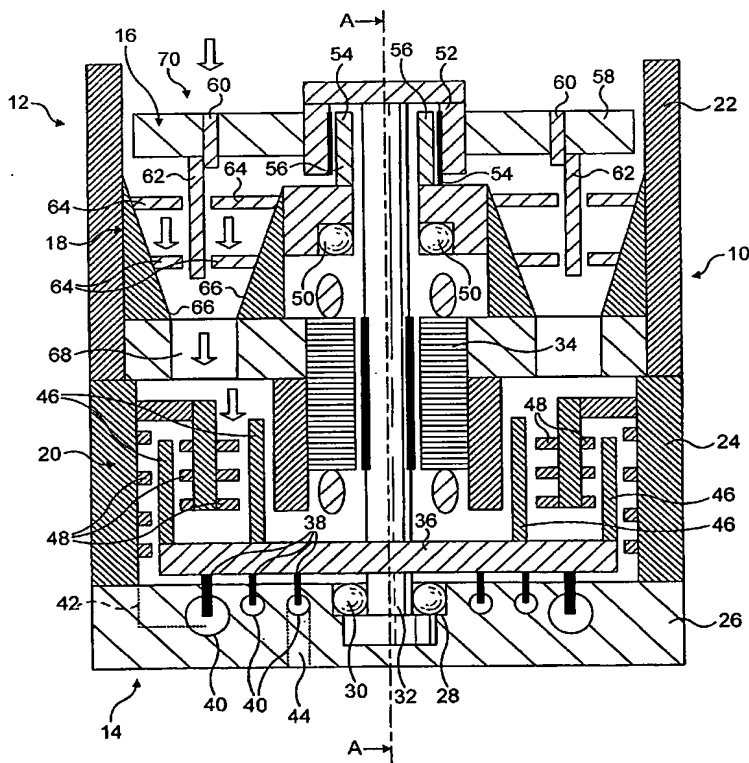
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(54) Title: **VACUUM PUMPING ARRANGEMENT**



(57) Abstract: A vacuum pumping arrangement comprises a drive shaft, a motor for driving said drive shaft, a molecular pumping mechanism and a regenerative pumping mechanism. The drive shaft is arranged for simultaneously driving the molecular pumping mechanism and the regenerative pumping mechanism. The drive shaft is supported by a lubricant free bearing associated with the molecular pumping mechanism.

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